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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/664,033 Confirmation No. : 2588  
Applicant : Bernd GAYER, et al.  
Filed : September 17, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 3611  
Examiner : To Be Assigned  
Docket No. : 028987.52500US  
Customer No. : 23911  
Title : Flexible Gap Covering Between an Adjustable Steering  
Column of a Motor Vehicle and an Instrument Panel and  
Method of Making Same

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This supplements the Information Disclosure Statement submitted in the above-identified application on September 17, 2003.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding European Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. Furthermore, I hereby

Application No. 10/664,033  
Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and therefore no fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

October 7, 2004



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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>			
		Application Number	10/664,033		
		Filing Date	September 17, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	Bernd GAYER		
		Art Unit	3611		
Sheet	1	of	1	Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	028987.52500US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
		US-				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)					
	AA	DE-20017192-U		12-28-2000	MAN NUTZFAHRZEUGE AG		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS		
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
	AB	EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT DATED AUGUST 9, 2004.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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